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### REMARKS

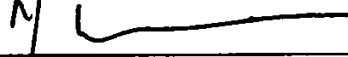
Responsive to the Office Action mailed **December 17, 2003**. Applicant thanks the Examiner for her guidance. Filed herewith are the resubmitted and corrected IDS which comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$180.00 the necessary fee and any additional fees which may be required, now or in the future, or credit any overpayment to **Account No. 50-2638**. Please ensure that the Attorney Docket Number is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

By

  
Mark Krietzman  
Reg. No. 41,128  
Tel.: (310) 586-7788

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 (b), second paragraph**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Griffin. Specifically that the remote heating element (110) in Fig. 15 of Griffin would "conductively transfer heat to the walls of a flow path within the fill head". Accordingly, applicant has amended the independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3 and 6.

Applicants' respectfully points out that the Griffin system with a remote heating element suffers from greater heat loss than the systems disclosed by Applicants' whereby the heating element is in direct contact with the fill material and/or within the flow path of the fill material. By placing the heating element in direct contact with the fill material and/or within the flow path of the fill material Applicant's invention can reduce heat loss to the fill head and surrounding material. Applicants' respectfully suggest that such benefits are not anticipated by, nor taught in, the Griffin patent.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all 35 U.S.C. 102(b), second paragraph rejections to the Claims.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 (a)**

Applicants' have amended the claims as indicated above. Claims 4-5 and 7 are dependant from 1,2 or 3. Applicants' respectfully submit that if the amended claims are not anticipated by the Griffin reference then the Examiners 103(a) rejections are moot.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all 35 U.S.C. 103(a), second paragraph rejections to the Claims.

It is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance, and such early action is respectfully solicited. Should matters remain which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicant's undersigned agent.